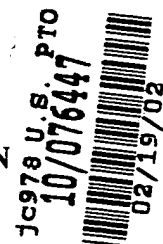


PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Akihiro HASHIGUCHI

Appln. No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

Confirmation No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Group Art Unit: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: February 19, 2002

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

For: THERMAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND APPARATUS

#2  
D.G.  
7-9-02

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

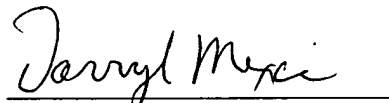
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
Q68577

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

**JP-2000-241928 is cited on page 10 in the specification of the above-identified application.**

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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